THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S, ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, the average yield per hectare of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco crop in 2004-05 season is projected to be higher than that in 2003-04 season.

(c) The Tobacco Board is providing incentives to FCV tobacco growers in the Karnataka light soil regions through supply of briquettes, barn insulation as an energy conservation measure and other extension programmes.

Export of Software Services

1949. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take for inclusion of software services under the guidelines issued for assistance for development of exports infrastructure and other allied activities scheme by which funds would be allocated on the basis of export performance excluding the export of software services, which is fetching more foreign exchange reserves, inspite of having a very poor infrastructure which is a major deterrent for its development; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The guidelines of the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme provide for allocation of funds to States/Union Territories on the basis of their export performance based on State-wise data of exports of goods conpiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S). Export of services, including software services, is not taken into account for allocation of funds because such data on services is not available State-wise.

India's stand on WTO talks

1950. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: